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A FRIENDLY DOG-FACED BABOON OF ETHIOPIA GETS A FREE RIDE

(See Bulletin No. 2)

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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Allahabad: Where 4,500,000 People Bathed

THE United States, one often thinks, is a land of large crowds.

Baseball games draw 50,000 fans; football games bring together 70,000 to 100,000 rooters.

Soldiers Field, Chicago, probably the largest stadium in the United States, could seat only one forty-fifth of the mass of humanity which recently crowded into Allahabad, India, to bathe in the Ganges.

Allahabad expected 1,500,000 visitors, according to a communication of Maynard Owen Williams to the National Geographic Society, but 4,500,000 came. That is approximately as many men, women and children as live in the State of Michigan. Allahabad probably holds the world's record for crowds.

Confluence of Two Great Rivers Brings Pilgrims to Allahabad

"Allahabad is ordinarily an uninteresting city," writes Mr. Williams, "but during the *mela* it takes on the odor of sanctity and dust because of its position between the two great rivers, the Ganges and the Jumna.

"Once a year the Magh Mela is held. Once in twelve years the Kumbh Mela buries the sands of the alluvial plain beneath a flood of human beings. A mela is a religious fair, but mêlée is as good a word. At the annual fair the number of pilgrims on a given day is only a quarter of a million. But during the twelfth year a million or more—this year many more—pilgrims come hither to stir up the fine dust, skid through the slippery clay, and bathe in the chocolate-colored waters of the sacred rivers.

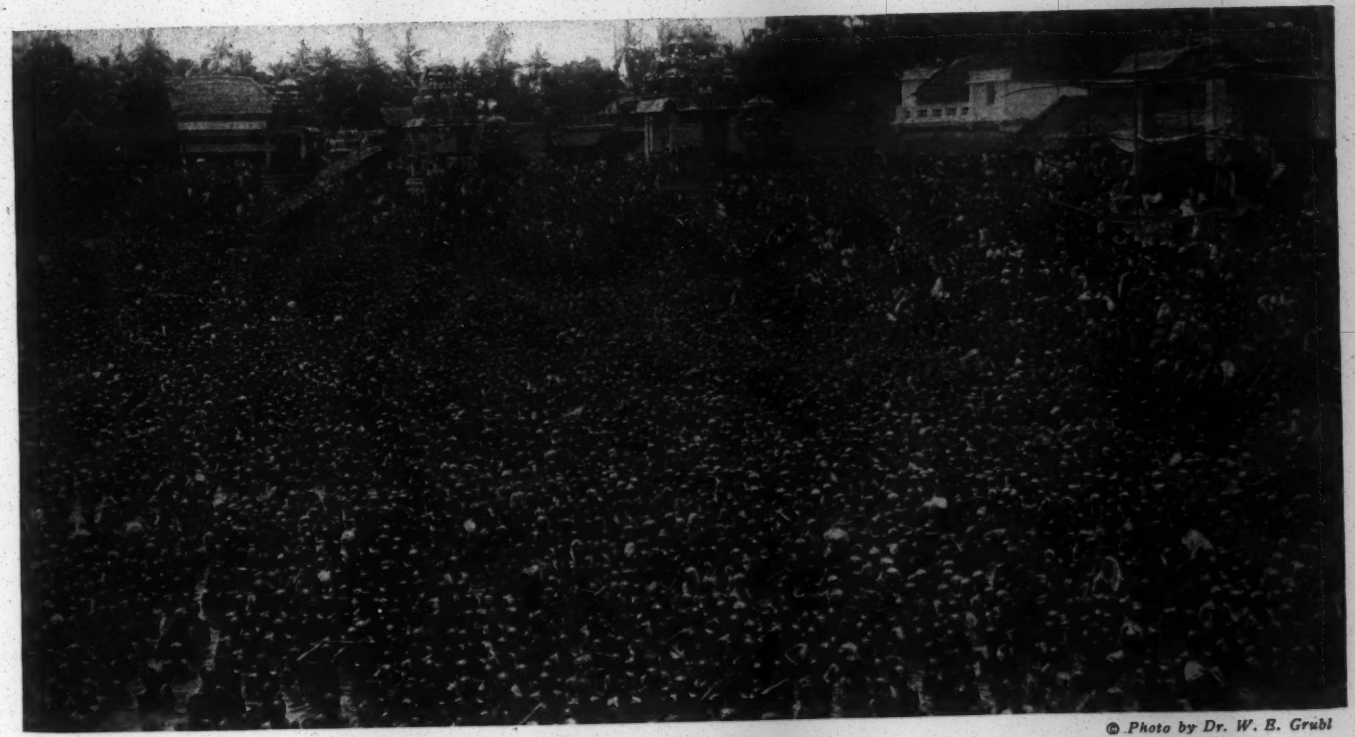
"During the mela the whole countryside is placed under strict control. No carriages are allowed in the grounds. Sanitation becomes, for the time, a serious matter. Photographing is forbidden, without special permission and a bodyguard.

The Yellow Dust Cloud Stirred Up by Bare Feet

"Before the fair takes place a village of rush shelters springs up on the low shore, which the receding water has left parched and cracked into great squares. Flags, which may or may not mean anything more than display, but upon which most of the characters of Mother Goose and the Jungle Books appear, rise on bamboo poles whose assertion of individual independence gives an inebriated look to the row of fluttering pennants. No two have the same slant. A cornfield is a miracle of geometric precision compared with this awkward squad of waving flags.

"Holy men, dressed in a gray coat of ashes, chat with one another or sit in silent meditation, while others, sheltered from the fierce sun by a rush screen or protected by a cloak or blanket hung to sunward, chant psalm after psalm from their holy books. They accentuate the monotony of their tones by strumming on a musical instrument which seems to be a hybrid of mandolin and soup ladle, much the same type of instrument that one finds, far away across Persia, pictured on the ancient Hittite ruins on the upper Euphrates.

"Yellow-faced gods in groups of four or six spread their tawdry silk skirts in mute appeal for largesse in coins of microscopic value. Over the whole ant colony of massed humanity there hangs a yellow dust cloud stirred up by myriads of bare feet and awkward slippers with huge hanging tongues. Stooping street-



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BATHING IN SACRED WATERS IS A COMMON PRACTICE THROUGHOUT INDIA

Every temple has its tank for ceremonial bathing. The sacred waters of the River Ganges, especially at Benares, are popularly supposed to remove the guilt of sin, and therefore attract pilgrims from all over India. The water in the great tank at Kumbakonum, in the Tanjore district of Madras, is reputed to come from the Ganges, by a subterranean passage 1,200 miles long, once every 12 years (See Bulletin No. 1).

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Blue Nile Dam Contract Goes to American Company

ETHIOPIA'S biggest dam, a $20,000,000 structure across the Blue Nile where it emerges from Lake Tsana, will be built by an American company, according to a recent agreement approved by Ras Taffari, King of Ethiopia (Abyssinia).

Building of the dam is as important to Anglo-Egyptian Sudan as it is to Ethiopia because control of the waters of the Blue Nile figures importantly in irrigation projects of the Sudan.

In some ways the Blue Nile can be compared to the American Colorado. Both streams have eaten their way through mile-deep canyons, and have helped to build up a delta region with their millions of tons of mud and silt.

The Largest Lake of Ethiopia

But while the Colorado traverses a Temperate Zone, the Blue Nile rises and flows in an equatorial region. The most characteristic feature of the Blue Nile, however, is the large fresh water lake from which it springs.

Ethiopia is primarily an extensive plateau region gashed by deep river gorges and pitted by an occasional lake depression. The largest basin is that of Lake Tsana, and the greatest of the gorges is that cut by the waters of the lake in forcing their way down to the plains of the Sudan.

In the eight or nine thousand foot plateau the lake occupies a saucerlike depression at an altitude of about 6,000 feet above sea level. It has an average length of 40 miles and an average width of 30, and an area of approximately 1,200 square miles. In many places the ground slopes gently down, leaving considerable plains; in others the hills descend abruptly to the water.

Hippopotami Are Numerous; Crocodiles Absent

The plains about the lake show their tropical location as the plateau above does not. Reeds and grasses grow rankly, interspersed with palms, acacias, and figs. Fever is common among the inhabitants of these swamps, but cattle have become immune to ticks and diseases, and flourish amazingly. In few places in the world are such fat, well-formed beasts to be found. Hippopotami are numerous in and about the lake, but there are no crocodiles.

Like the inhabitants on the shores of Lake Titicaca, South America, the natives living about Lake Tsana construct rafts and crude boats of reeds. The stalks are bound together by thongs of hippopotamus hide. Natives use short paddles to propel the completed rafts.

Numerous streams feed water into Lake Tsana from the surrounding mountains and hills. In the rainy season their volume is heavy and the lake level rises several feet. The Blue Nile flows out of the lake in a relatively broad stream dotted with islands. Small rapids occur a few miles from the lake, but the first fall of consequence is situated about 21 miles from the outlet. There the waters plunge down 80 feet. Beyond the fall is a very narrow gorge. At one place the two edges are no more than ten feet apart, and at that point the gulf is bridged by an old masonry arch built by early Portuguese explorers.

In the thirty miles immediately below the first falls, the Blue Nile tumbles over a succession of cataracts and falls, and descends in all some 2,000 feet. In the great semicircular sweep of the river through the Abyssinian mountains to the Sudan plains there is an additional fall of 2,000 feet. It is in this section that

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sprinklers with swollen water-skins weave back and forth, rescuing a wide roadway from the dusty strand which in summer is hidden beneath the murky waters of the sacred rivers.

"Out beyond the line of religious boats, each with its tinsel shrine, the pilgrims seek the place where the cleansing flood of the Jumna enters the sacred Ganges, and coffee-colored rivers make a coffee-colored people whiter than snow —in their own estimation.

"Like other religious fairs, the Magh Mela at Allahabad is a mecca for money-makers, and the principal thoroughfare is lined with mat-shed shops for the sale of sacrificial brassware, tiny brass idols, holy berries made into dark necklaces, and shining brass water bottles, zoned with mellow-tinted copper, in which holy water can be taken to remote parts of India by credulous people. Here and there one finds men with small furnaces full of heated pitch, sealing the water vessels so that not a germ or an atom of holiness shall escape."

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A RELIGIOUS DEVOTEE CHANTING MANTRAS AT THE ALLAHABAD MELA

The barren sands at Prag, the place of sacrifice, yearly teem with pilgrim crowds and every twelve years the Mela is an outpouring of millions. In 644 A. D. the Emperor Harsha here distributed the wealth gained in six years of war to Buddhist, Jain, and Brahman holy men, in a festival which lasted for seventy-five days.

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Parrots: Sideshow Performers of the Tropics

POLLY wants a friend!

The sociable parrot, cherished companion of man, has suddenly become suspect as a dangerous carrier of disease. Following an embargo on the importation of parrots into the United States has come a Navy Department order forbidding sailors to have parrots.

Although hunters are believed to have completely exterminated the only member of the parrot family native to the United States, the parrot population of the country is large.

How large no one knows. But it is estimated that there are 30,000 parrots in the city of New York alone.

More than a half million live birds of all kinds are imported into the United States annually. Most of these feathered immigrants are canaries, of course, with members of the Psittaci family, which includes parrots, parakeets, macaws, cockatoos, love birds, and lories, probably second in numbers.

Amazon and African Gray Are Best Talkers

Parrots are chiefly tropical birds. Some species, however, range deeply into temperate regions. The Carolina parrot, which, like the passenger pigeon, has been wiped out, used to be reported as far north as Albany, New York, and Wisconsin. Regions of New Zealand penetrated by some hardy parrots lie as far south of the Equator as Labrador is north of it.

Charges of transmitting communicable disease have been laid against the Amazon, a green parrot, and one of the best talkers among approximately 500 species of parrots. The Amazon and the African gray parrot, a large gray-feathered bird with a red tail, are the most noted conversationalists of their voluble order.

A few parrots are quiet, retiring birds dressed in modest Quaker colors. As a class, however, they are the ballyhoo barkers of birddom; the noisy, clever, sideshow performers of the tropical forest; blatant, bizarre in dress; comedians in motleys trooping onto the silent, tragic jungle stage.

Arrival of a flock of screeching cockatoos will turn a Malayan forest glade into a bedlam beside which "radio row" under the Manhattan elevated is a peaceful retreat.

Parrots and Cotton Were New World's First Gifts to Columbus

Scientists believe that it was the ring parrot of India which Alexander the Great introduced to the Western World. Parrots in cages of tortoise shell and ivory with silver wires were among Nero's extravagances.

Parrots were the first gift of the New World to the Old World. Natives of the Bahama Islands swam out to Columbus' ships to present the Spaniards with parrots and balls of cotton.

Neil M. Judd, leader of the National Geographic Society expedition to Pueblo Bonito, found in the 1,000-year-old New Mexico ruins perches and thirty skeletons of great macaws, which were totems of certain Indian clans.

Parrots vary in size from small birds, scarcely larger than sparrows, to huge macaws that measure three feet from bill to tip of tail. All members of the Psittaci family are distinguished by the short, stout bill, the upper half of which

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the river has carved out its deepest canyons. It is steaming hot in these great trenches, tropical verdure flourishes, and the waters teem with crocodiles.

The first falls of the Blue Nile is the best site for easy power development. Irrigation engineers, however, have considered the feasibility of a dam near the lake outlet which would impound more water in the lake during the rainy season, and regulate its flow at other seasons.

Note: Geography classes studying the Nile and its tributaries as an example of a river culture will find the following articles in the *National Geographic Magazine* useful: "The Land of Egypt," March, 1926; "Along the Banks of the Colorful Nile" (23 color plates), September, 1926; "Man and Nature in Ethiopia," August, 1928; "Along the Nile Through Egypt and the Sudan," October, 1922; "Cairo to Cape Town, Overland," February, 1925; "At the Tomb of Tutankhamen," May, 1923, and "The Resurrection of Ancient Egypt," September, 1913.

Bulletin No. 2, April 14, 1930.

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ON THE SHORES OF ETHIOPIA'S "INLAND SEA"

Natives in the vicinity of Lake Tsana own large herds of fine humped cattle similar to those raised in India. Boats made of reeds much like the *balsa* boats used on Lake Titicaca are employed as canoes by the natives. Few other craft ever disturb its waters.

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Londoners Rush to the Defense of Peter Pan's Home

LONDONERS are rushing to the defense of the home of Peter Pan, according to recent dispatches from England.

When the park development plans of a new First Commissioner of Works called for changes in Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, protests began to pour in. To disturb a single curve in the Serpentine Lake threatened long debates in Parliament.

Small wonder, considering that an island in the Serpentine is the home of Peter Pan.

Barrie's Story Books Are Guidebooks to the Park

One of the best guidebooks to Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens is James M. Barrie's "The Little White Bird." Barrie's Peter Pan, as his many admirers know, lived on the island in the Serpentine "where all the birds are born that become little boys and girls."

Hyde Park, with Kensington Gardens, is about two miles long. Their area is about three-fourths the area of Central Park, New York. Like most London public parks both Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens were formerly royal and private parks. It is possible to walk two short blocks from the Thames, enter St. James Park, and then, except for two busy street crossings, saunter three miles through London parks, undisturbed by the roar and confusion of metropolitan traffic.

Londoners have taken great pains to enlighten the newspaper men, aids and stenographers attending the Armament Conference on the subject of Rotten Row, which is in Hyde Park.

Rotten Row is a place to ride horseback, not a tenement house. It is the most fashionable bridle path in London.

Rotten Row, Where They Ride on Week Days and Walk on Sundays

Rotten Row presents the horrible example of a good French phrase gone wrong. Because the French language was popular at court when William III ordered a road cut through Hyde Park to Kensington Palace, it became known as "Route du Roi" or King's Road. Londoners soon democratized this high-sounding, aristocratic label into undignified Rotten Row.

For one mile it stretches straight through spacious Hyde Park. Various reasons why riders continue to frequent it have been advanced: first, that it is a pleasant place to ride; second, that riders find it delightful to be looked at by envious throngs along the parallel pathways; and third, that the soft sand surface makes it difficult for unlucky riders to break their necks, legs, arms or collar-bones.

Equestrians take second place in Rotten Row on Sunday mornings when the sidewalks (foot paths, Londoners call them) are used for the church parade. Before and after church fashionable London, in Sunday best, strolls down Rotten Row.

Two Parks Offer All Kinds of Diversions

Riders appear in Rotten Row at all hours of the morning. The early rising riders, who gallop before breakfast, are called the "liver brigade."

Rotten Row was an original Great White Way, a predecessor of Broadway.

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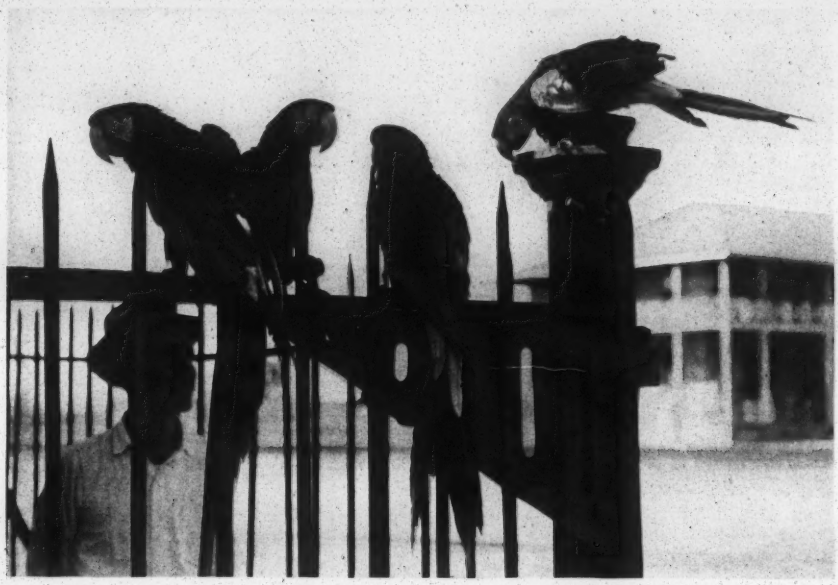
extends beyond and turns down over the lower half, and by the fact that two toes of each foot are directed forward and two backward. Although they flock together parrots are notably monogamous.

One Parrot Sleeps Head Down; Another Kills Sheep

Birds in their little nests do not generally agree, nursery rimes to the contrary, yet one specie of parrots is a model of marital bliss. Newlyweds could be no more affectionate than a pair of green love birds forever snuggling on their favorite perch. If one dies the mate often pines away. The noisy cockatoos are distinguished by their topknots of feathers which they raise when angry or excited. The prevailing color of the lories is red, while certain members of the parakeet family attract notice by their curious custom of hanging by one foot, head downward, when asleep. Macaws of Central and South America are the largest of parrots and upset the claim that all color combinations of Nature are beautiful by decking themselves in clashing blues, reds, greens and yellows.

The ability of parrots to adapt their "speech" seems also to extend to their diet. No wild "polly" wants a cracker. Honey, seeds, fruit, buds, roots and insects are their natural food. Crackers and live sheep are an acquired taste among parrots. The kea parrot of New Zealand was strictly a vegetarian before the coming of the white man. The kea started on its downward path, according to some scientists, by pecking at sheep hides hung out to dry. From that the kea went on to attacks on live sheep, horses and dogs. The kea will light on the rump of a sheep, sink its claws in the fur, and proceed to peck the animal to death. A bounty put on its head by the New Zealand Government has made extinction the price of its acquired appetite for fresh meat.



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CHOOSING A PARROT FOR HIS PATIO

These large birds of brilliant plumage do not talk, but make a peculiar squawking noise, which suggests their name—guacamayos. They are great acrobats and use the beak frequently to maintain a hold while climbing.

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The New Hebrides, Which England and France Rule Jointly

AUSTRALIA has begun agitation to obtain for Great Britain a larger share in the government of the New Hebrides Islands.

"Condominium" is the name applied to the government under which Great Britain and France jointly rule the New Hebrides.

The New Hebrides live a double life. The colony has two "masters," the British commissioner and the French commissioner, who are required to agree on the conduct of New Hebridean affairs. Two languages, French and English, have official recognition. Military forces of two nations police the New Hebrides and their navies guard them. Both French and British steamship lines serve the islands whose citizens honor with equal respect the Tricolor and the Union Jack.

Englishman, Frenchman and Spaniard Form Court

Justice on the New Hebrides is subject to still greater complications. To the joint court of one Frenchman and one Englishman the King of Spain has been empowered to add a member. The Spaniard insures a deciding vote at all times.

While the Allied Powers were redistributing the islands of the South Pacific, the New Hebrides became involved in joint claims. Unable to agree on which claim was the better, England and France agreed on the Condominium government.

The New Hebrides are 1,500 miles out from Sydney on the sea route to San Francisco. They are 250 miles north of the French colony of New Caledonia. The largest of the twelve large islands has an area of 857 square miles. In addition to the dozen large islands there are about one hundred small ones.

Where a Cartridge Belt Was Clothes

The New Hebrides remain one of the last Pacific island groups to be pacified. Only twenty years ago a tribe numbering 5,000 might lose a hundred or so of its numbers per year to the vengeance and appetites of its neighbors. Until effective joint government was established in 1906 every native male carried a loaded gun at all times. A cartridge belt was clothes. It was not uncommon to see a patrol of natives, armed to the teeth, march with their women down to the beach and stand guard while the ladies bathed in the sea.

Missionaries of various denominations have struggled in the New Hebrides and some have been martyred for their efforts. Thousands of natives cling to pagan "devil worship." At night they gather in their hamils, or meeting places, where torches reveal a circle of hollow logs carved in the forms of leering idols. The lights flicker on prized white boars' tusks which hang in festoons on the sacred sounding-logs. On such nights the performers in the ceremony believe they see the ghosts of the dead, perched on the branches of the trees, looking down on them.

A Few Brave "Stray" Bullets and a Queer Government

Although 50,000 natives live with ease on the islands, the complications of government have prevented more than 1,000 French and English taking up residence. Valuable crops grow readily. Three hundred nuts on a single coconut tree is said to be a common record. Coffee, bananas, and three crops of corn per year are the harvest of the plantation owner who can brave "stray" bullets, a queer government, the fever, and can make the natives work.

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In 1695 the King ordered the whole length of it lighted with lamps. A young lady of the times left a description: "on each side," she wrote, "are Rowes of posts on which are glasses—Cases for lamps which are lighted in ye Evening and appears very fine as well as safe for ye passengers."

Horseback riding and strolling in Rotten Row are merely two of the multitude of diversions offered Londoners in Hyde Park and the adjoining Kensington Gardens. While soap-box orators entertain crowds in one corner a band plays in another. The Serpentine, an artificial lake, offers swimming and boating. Tea is served in the Ring Tea House while at the western end of the park area, in Kensington Gardens, innumerable nursemaids and children gather. Daily regattas in Round Pond excite small boy shipowners more than the annual races at Cowes thrill their fathers.

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A VIEW THAT INSPIRED WILLIAM WORDSWORTH

England has been discussing the question of establishing a large national park. One of the regions suggested is in the Lake District. This view was made from a point on the grounds of Allan Bank, the house in which Wordsworth lived when he was writing some of his best poetry.

French colonists show signs of giving up trying to make the natives work. France has introduced Indo-Chinese and Japanese for labor. The other partner in the Condominium government did not approve this practice.

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PIGS ARE BRED FOR THEIR TUSKS BY NATIVES OF THE NEW HEBRIDES

The upper tusks are broken out; then the lower tusks, having nothing to oppose them, grow out in a curve, enter the jaw, and come out again. This pig's tusks have completed one full turn and have a good start on a second turn. When the pig has been sacrificed before the idols, its jaws will be preserved in the hamil ground.

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